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SUPER-IMPORTANT

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NEW OFFICE COMING—Many of you may have heard that the current Elko office of the Department of Agriculture is located on the Great Basin College campus. The college is expanding and needs the space on which to put a 35,000 sq. ft. Electrical Tech Center building. Besides the Brand Inspection and Agriculture Enforcement programs, the Elko office also houses the northern Nevada Weights and Measures inspectors, a State Veterinarian and animal disease diagnostic lab.

In anticipation of having to vacate the current premises, the state is pursuing the purchase of an office/warehouse building along the main street on the east end of Elko. This building was built in 1997 and has much more room. There will be some retrofitting necessary and the veterinary labs must be built into the warehouse space before we can move. If all goes according to plan, we anticipate moving to the new building sometime this fall. We will keep you posted.

HEAD TAX SEASON—The annual Special Tax on Specified livestock (Head Tax) billings went out last week. This is a yearly event and is an important source of funding for the brand program. The brand program is fee funded and does not receive state tax monies. The Head Tax was put in place in the early days as a way to raise funds to support the program. It always raises questions and nobody likes to be taxed. If you get any questions, you may refer them to the office. Cara is the contact person.

Please find a letter with this mailing regarding **Head Tax collection on Indian reservations**. It's a little different and the brand inspectors who inspect Indian cattle or horses leaving the reservations, even if it's just to go to the sale yard, will now be collecting the Head Tax on those animals at the time you issue the brand inspection.

BLM MUSTANG ADOPTIONS—There have recently been some people who have adopted mustangs from the BLM who are claiming that the adoption certificate they received from the BLM is all they need for ownership and travel. This is not true. They should have a change of ownership Brand Inspection Clearance Certificate from the BLM to the adopter for proof of ownership, and they need either a brand inspection or Annual or Lifetime transportation permit to travel on. Just like any other horse owner does. I have had recent conversations with the Las Vegas area BLM horse specialists regarding this situation. She tells me that they do comply and will tell their mustang adopters about the brand inspection requirements.

CALIFORNIA BEEF CATTLE CERTIFIED TB FREE—The U.S. Department of Agriculture lifted restrictions last month on shipments of California cattle after designating the state free of bovine tuberculosis following a small outbreak of the disease three years ago in the San Joaquin Valley. California's beef cattle industry amounts to \$1.6 billion a year. The move by USDA ends the need for federal identification and veterinary tests for beef and dairy cattle moving between California and other states.

HEALTH NOTE FOR US ALL—This is from the American Stroke Association journal. Strokes can happen anytime, anywhere, to young and old alike. Symptoms can be minor or devastating. If not recognized right away and medical help administered within 30 minutes to an hour, permanent, devastating damage to the victim could occur. I know, because I've had one. Our brand inspectors and enforcement officers are out among the public daily and being aware of the symptoms could save a life or at least save a person from the devastation of brain damage from an untreated stroke.

Facial weakness, weakness in the limbs, stumbling, slurred speech or inability to respond are all symptoms of stroke. The bystander can recognize a stroke by asking 3 simple questions:
Ask the person to SMILE.
Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher, or haul the person to the nearest medical help. Widespread knowledge and use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

MISCELLANEOUS - We have included the pay period schedule for the first half of FY06, which covers June 6, 2005 thru December 18, 2005. Also enclosed is a list of temporary brands for pasture cattle